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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CHILEANS CRITICAL OF BUSH ADMINISTRATION
POLICIES

11. On January 29, government-owned, editorially independent "La Nacion" (circ. 4,200) carried a column by Raul Sohr entitled, "Chileans Condemn Bush." Quote:

12. "The majority of Americans and the rest of the world condemn Bush's policies.... The BBC commissioned a survey in 25 countries.... In that survey, 51% of Chileans expressed a negative view of U.S. influence in the world, which last year stood at 46%.... 68% disapproved of the U.S. stance in the war that Israel waged against Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006.... 68% said the U.S. presence in the region causes more problems than resolutions and only 14% consider that the United States is a stabilizing force. 65% condemned U.S. policy in Iraq.... 63% disapprove of the treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo; 62% disagree with U.S. policy regarding Iran's nuclear program, and 59% oppose pressure on North Korea for its nuclear program.

13. "Environmentalists should be happy... 63% of Chileans have a negative assessment of Bush's policies regarding global warming.... After September 11, a wave of sympathy for the victims of the terrorist aggression swept the world. It is the trampling of human rights, as in Guantanamo, and Washington's militarism that turned the world and U.S public opinion against the Bush administration."

KELLY